

C L A I M S

1. A carriage comprising:

an electrically conductive frame disposed near  
an original surface of a substantially horizontally  
set original, and extending in a first direction in  
parallel with the original surface;

5 a cold cathode fluorescent lamp for illuminating  
the original surface, the cold cathode fluorescent lamp  
extending in the first direction and being disposed on  
10 the frame;

an optical member for guiding reflection light  
reflected by the original surface; and

15 a lighting circuit, attached to one end portion of  
the frame near a positive electrode of the cold cathode  
fluorescent lamp, for lighting the cold cathode  
fluorescent lamp.

2. A carriage according to claim 1, wherein  
a weight for stabilizing a weight balance in the first  
direction is attached on a side of the other end  
portion of the frame, which is distanced from the  
20 lighting circuit in the first direction.

3. A carriage according to claim 2, wherein said  
weight comprises an original size sensor for sensing  
a size of the original.

25 4. A carriage according to claim 1, wherein  
a wall thickness of said one end portion of the frame  
is less than a wall thickness of the other end portion

of the frame, which is distanced from the lighting circuit in the first direction, thereby to stabilize a weight balance in the first direction.

5. A carriage comprising:

5 a frame disposed near an original surface of a substantially horizontally set original, and extending in a first direction in parallel with the original surface;

10 a cold cathode fluorescent lamp for illuminating the original surface, the cold cathode fluorescent lamp extending in the first direction and being disposed on the frame;

15 an optical member for guiding reflection light reflected by the original surface;

20 a lighting circuit, attached to one end portion of the frame near a positive electrode of the cold cathode fluorescent lamp, for lighting the cold cathode fluorescent lamp; and

25 a weight for stabilizing a weight balance in the first direction, said weight being attached on a side of the other end portion of the frame, which is distanced from the lighting circuit in the first direction.

6. A carriage according to claim 5, wherein said frame has electrical conductivity.

7. A carriage according to claim 5, wherein said weight comprises an original size sensor for sensing

a size of the original.

8. A carriage according to claim 5, wherein  
a wall thickness of said one end portion of the frame  
is less than a wall thickness of the other end portion  
5 of the frame, which is distanced from the lighting  
circuit in the first direction, thereby to stabilize  
a weight balance in the first direction.

9. A scanner unit comprising:  
a carriage, which includes an electrically  
10 conductive frame disposed near an original surface of  
a substantially horizontally set original, and  
extending in a first direction in parallel with the  
original surface; a cold cathode fluorescent lamp for  
illuminating the original surface, the cold cathode  
15 fluorescent lamp extending in the first direction and  
being disposed on the frame; an optical member for  
guiding reflection light reflected by the original  
surface; a lighting circuit, attached to one end  
portion of the frame near a positive electrode of the  
20 cold cathode fluorescent lamp, for lighting the cold  
cathode fluorescent lamp; and a weight for stabilizing  
a weight balance in the first direction, said weight  
being attached on a side of the other end portion of  
the frame, which is distanced from the lighting circuit  
25 in the first direction;

two rails extending along the original surface in  
a second direction perpendicular to the first

direction, the two rails supporting both the end portions of the frame such that the frame may slide in the second direction; and

5 light receiving means for receiving the reflection light guided by the optical member.

10. A carriage according to claim 9, wherein said weight comprises an original size sensor for sensing a size of the original.

11. A carriage according to claim 9, wherein  
10 a wall thickness of said one end portion of the frame is less than a wall thickness of the other end portion of the frame, which is distanced from the lighting circuit in the first direction, thereby to stabilize a weight balance in the first direction.